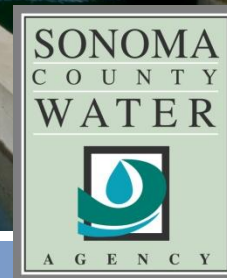


Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District



Frequently Asked Questions

How are District rates structured?

Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District rates are currently set with a flat rate structure. A flat rate structure is a pricing structure that charges a single fixed fee for a service, regardless of usage. According to the most recent State Water Resources Control Board Wastewater User Charge Survey Report F.Y. 2007-08, of 850 agencies included in the survey, 76.6% reported charging single-family residential (SFR) users a fixed user charge (flat rate). The flat rates charged by the District in 2007-08 and approved for 2010-11 are shown in the following table. These charges appear on the property owner's property tax bill.

County Sanitation District/Sanitation Zone	# of Connected Parcels 7/30/2009	Monthly SFR Charge 2007-08	Monthly SFR Charge 2010-2011
Sonoma Valley CSD	10,279	\$ 48.17	\$ 57.83

Is the District researching a new rate structure?

The District is researching new rate structures to better meet the needs of its customers and will propose to its board of directors the initiation of a rate study in 2010. This study will provide the needed data to accurately determine the impact of various rate structures on customer charges. A series of public meetings will be set to elicit customer input during this new rate setting process. Because the 2010 property tax bills include sewer service charges for fiscal year 2010/11, any new rate structure would take effect July 1, 2011. For more information, please visit www.sonomacountywater.org/svcasd.

Why does my sewer rate increase?

An 11-year rate plan has been prepared by the District to pay for ongoing maintenance and operations of its treatment facilities, debt services, capital improvement projects and to ensure reserve funds are available in case of emergencies. The goal of the rate plan is to lessen the financial impacts of District customers while meeting state and federal regulations.

Glossary of Common Terms

Capital Project: A project that replaces or adds assets valued at greater than \$25,000.

Operations: Those activities that provide direct service to system users or to support direct service.

Maintenance: Those activities that work to keep current equipment, facilities, and infrastructure operational.

ESD: Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling. Commercial and multi-family residential properties are charged the flat rate times the number of Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling units.